THE THOREAU SOCIETY BULLETIN

Number 7 April, 1944

SHORT NOTES: Thoreau themes appear more and more in modern advertisements. Recently the Beck Engraving Company had a full-page ad in the printing trade magazines with the title "Calling Henry David Thoreau." The page contained a picture of an old oaken bucket standing under a roadside flowing well. That suggested Thoreau to Beck. . . . When Mrs. Calvin Chapman stopped in Chapel Hill on her midwinter pilgrimage to Concord, I told her about the burial vault of Thoreau's grandfather, Jean Thoreau and drew her a map that would lead her to the grave. But she must have used the map in the wrong cemetery and reported that it was no good for finding Henry Thoreau's grave. Hereafter, my maps for graveyard use will consist of one line called "The path of glory. This will be good in any cemetery, for "The paths of glory lead but to the gr grave." . . . The late Harry Lee had a copy of WALDEN which was given to him by a soldier in France in World War I, and which he carried with him for the duration and years afterward. . . . The same thing happened to John Kieran. . . . On my shelves there is a little leather-bound book containing "Friendship" and "The Duty of Civil Disobedience" that was carried in France during the last war. Somehow the duty of military obedience and the duty of civil disobedience managed to lie down together. They had better; or with ten or fifteen million men trained in military obedience, we shall reap post-war fascism under some name or other. . . . Brooks Atkinson must by now have received the copy of WALDEN which he sent for and which was sent by the next New York TIMES man who went out to China. . . . Our bibliographer, William White, reported finding a copy of Walden in a post library of an Aleutian outpost. That was three months ago, so the news that WALDEN occupied one point in the Aleutians will be neither aid nor comfort for the enemy. . . . WALDEN doesn't seem to have helped that enemy much. There was an edition of it published in Tokyo in 1935 (text in English, introduction and notes in Japanese). There is a strange dichotomy about the Japanese: Their exquisite taste and gentleness exists alongside their ruthlessness. The ruthlessness is fanaticism, and fanaticism can make monsters of us all.

LOOKING TOWARD SUMMER

THE JULY MEETING: This is written in Chapel Hill, where it is easier on the first of April to look toward summer than it may be in Concord and points north. But it is not too soon anywhere to begin thinking about a meeting in July if it is at all possible to have one. So many members live within a few miles of Concord that it would seem possible to have a one-day meeting there or near there. It is not good for a society to go too long without a regular meeting. One object of a society is to make it possible for members to meet one another. Another object is to elect officers now and then. Keep the week-ends around the 12th of July clear on your calendar. The society's president has had the university at Chapel Hill change his summer teaching schedule so as to keep those dates clear.

THE 1944 BOOKLET. About the only trend one could find in the half dozen responses to our request for ideas about the next printed booklet was a desire for a printed map of Thoreau's Concord to be used in connection with reading Thoreau's books. Making and printing a new map is beyond our resources; but securing reprints of the Gleason map might not be impossible. The editor is toying with the idea. As to the 1944 booklet, plans must now be mapped, whether or not maps are to be planned.

COMING: Peter Pauper Press (Philip C. Duschnes, 66 East 56th St.) New York announces a DeLuxe Artist's Edition of WALDEN, illustrated by Aldren Watson, "whose brilliant full-page pictures and chapter headings in two colors would have been loved by Thoreau himself." Printed on specially-made, deckle-edged paper, bound with decorated sides and cloth spine, and boxed, the book will cost $3.50 . . . FORTUNE MAGAZINE plans to have an article on Thoreau in its May number. The magazine sent a photographer to Concord on March 6th to make colored pictures of Thoreau articles belonging to the Antiquarian Society and the Public Library. . . . Somehow Peter Pauper sounds like a better name for a Thoreau publisher than Fortune does.

THOREAU PUBLICATION, 1942 AND 1943 (SUPPLEMENT)

As we feared, the 1942-43 list in BULLETIN No.6 was incomplete. Here are 15 items not known about in January, when we compiled the two-year list:

1. Berry, Edmund. "Thoreau in Canada," DALHOUSIE REVIEW (Reported by Walt Harding, date, page numbers, etc., not reported).
2. C(onant), W. B. "Thoreau As Seen by Concord Authors," Concord HERALD, July 9, 1942
3. Emerson, R. W. An essay on Thoreau in THE SHOCK OF RECOGNITION (N.Y.:Doubleday Doran,1943). Also in THE THREE READERS (N.Y.:Readers Club, 1943).
4. Gray, Leonard B. "Henry Thoreau -- Great Individualist," THE CHRISTIAN LEADER, January 17, 1942, pp.40-43.

Hurd, Harry Elmore, "Night Is for Sound," THE AVE MARIA, October 30, 1943, pp.551-5.

6. James, Elizabeth Coates, "Reading, by Henry David Thoreau," A Great Books in Brief article, Boston GLOBE, January 8, 1942.
7. Leigh, Betty. "Concord Meadows (Remembering Thoreau", Poem. Boston POST, August 6, 1942.
8. Leisy, E. E. "Thoreau's Borrowings in Walden," NOTES AND QUERIES, January 16, 1943, p.46. (A request for identification of passages. See page 3 of this BULLETIN).
9. Lyons, L. M. "Concord to Honor Man It Jailed for Not Paying Taxes," Boston GLOBE, July 5, 1942. (A preview of the Society's 1942 meeting).
10. (NOTES AND QUERIES) "Lowell and Thoreau" NOTES AND QUERIES, January 16, 1943, pp.40-41. (A reprinting by the editors of N.& Q. of Thoreau's June 22, 1858, letter to Lowell in protest of dropping the pine tree sentence from "Chesuncook")
11. Price, Fanny. "R.L.S. and Thoreau," NOTES AND QUERIES, Jan. 2, 1943, p.18.
    (A note on influence of Thoreau's lines in A WEEK ("Monday")
    "The ship becalmed, at length stands still,
    The steed must rest beneath the hill."
    on Stevenson's famous lines
    "Home is the sailor, home from the sea,
    And the hunter home from the hill."
12. Russell, Frank Alden (Ted Malone, pseud.). "Henry David Thoreau," pp.199-215 of AMERICAN PILGRIMAGE (N.Y.:Dodd Mead, 1942).
13. W(heeler), J. A., "Reflections on an Early American Anarchist," WHY?, II,ii,2-3, July-August, 1943. (An answer to the Woodcock article listed below).
14. Winslow, Grace Sewell. "Concord," Poem. Boston POST, February 27, 1942. (Same, Concord HERALD, March 26, 1942).
15. Woodcock, George. "Thoreau" WAR COMMENTARY (London), January, 1943. (On Thoreau as an anarchist).

THOREAU PUBLICATION, JANUARY THROUGH MARCH, 1944, A CHRONOLOGICAL LIST

1. Ballou, Adin. "Concord New Year" (sonnet) New York HERALD TRIBUNE, January 1, 1944. (Not indicated as an "After Reading Thoreau" sonnet, but headed with a quotation from Thoreau's January 1, 1854, journal).
2. THOREAU SOCIETY BULLETIN, NUMBER 6, Chapel Hill, N.C., January 12, 1944. 5 pages
3. A Thoreau scenario. A fantastic plot for a Thoreau movie thriller. In "The Talk of the Town" department of THE NEW YORKER, February 12, 1944, page 16.
4. Ballou, Adin. "Winter Sunset at Walden," New York HERALD TRIBUNE, February 21, 1944. (An "After Reading Thoreau" sonnet).
5. Longstreth, T. Morris. "An Idyl Out of Season," THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR, March 4, 1944. (An essay on Thoreau and huckleberry picking).
6. Ballou, Adin. "It's Time to Talk of Spring," New York HERALD TRIBUNE, March 16, 1944. (An "After Reading Thoreau" sonnet).
7. Cosman, Max. An article on Thoreau's attitude toward war. The PERSONALIST, Winter, 1944. (Exact title and page not supplied by member reporting the item).

HELP! HELP! Prof. E. E. Leisy, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas, needs the help of his fellow-members of the Thoreau Society in running down a baker's dozen of Thoreau allusions. He wants to know about these items as found in the Riverside Edition of A WEEK ON THE CONCORD AND MERRIMACK RIVERS:

p. 63: The planter's petition. Is it in Fox, HISTORY OF DUNSTABLE?
p. 71: Where in Lydgate is that quotation?
p.115: Is the poem Alexander Hume's "Thanks for a Summer Day"?
p.168: I don't find this quotation in Evans's OLD BALLADS.
p.205: The verse has been attributed to Gray; but it isn't there.
p.309: I don't find the verse under "Wednesday" in Charles Cotton.
p.390: Author of "the pause when the blast is recollecting itself"?
p.395: Lower paragraph: Did Nathl. Rogers say that, or did Emerson?
p.421: Where does James Montgomery say that (poem)?
p.444: Where in Marlowe is "From steep pine-bearing mountains"?
p.455: Where in Ossian are these quotations?
p.501: "Although we see celestial, etc." Is this from Donne?
pp. 462, 474, 503. Poems attributed to Thoreau, Why not in Bode's book?

A MODERN THOREAU. So much has been said about Thoreau's pacifism that it is refreshing to hear of a soldier with Thoreau traits. A relative who lives in Lincolnshire near old Boston sent this story (from THE CHILDREN'S NEWSPAPER). You may enjoy it.

"Although Henry Thoreau died more than 80 years ago, his spirit and teaching yet live. There are still Americans who embrace the creed and follow the practice of the scholar-recluse who was the trusted friend of bird and beast by Walden Pond, at Concord, Massachusetts.

"One of these is a young American soldier from the open spaces whose trans-Atlantic voyage ended in some months of training in the English Midlands. Like Thoreau, he seems able to inspire confidence in any wild living thing, great or small; they all become tame in his presence. One of the triumphs of his leisure is the taming of that most timid of creatures, a wild rabbit, which feeds from his hand and welcomes his appearance with delight.

"A greater achievement of this young soldier has been the conquest by kindness of a young rook which has grown up under his care, and, granted freedom, comes to him like a tame pigeon.

"'You'll never see that again,' said a CN reader to him the other day, as the bird flew off and alighted among the branches at the top of a high tree. 'Won't I? Just you watch out,' was the young naturalist's reply. He whistled, and, with a responsive caw, down swooped the rook, to perch on its American friend's outstretched arm. This is quite in the Thoreau tradition, with the English countryside for setting.

"This is a feathered morning -- by the river,
Wings and bright calls are scattered, here and there.
Dawn saw a frost, but now the warm notes quiver,
And melt with music the cool-throated air.
A song sparrow tries out his half-learned jingles,
Gaining a sunny confidence to sing;
And the small trumpet of a blue jay tingles
Assurance that it's time to talk of spring."
--From Adin Ballou's "It's Time to Talk of Spring"

OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY CONTINUING FROM JULY, 1942

President and Editor, Raymond Adams, Box 762, Chapel Hill, North Carolina
Vice-President, Dr. Fred S. Piper, 20 Clarke Street, Lexington, Massachusetts.
Secretary-Treasurer, T. Morris Longstreth, 65 Lexington Road, Concord, Massachusetts.
Secretary-on-leave, Walter Harding, 670 West 165th Street, New York City, 32.